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Message Text

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43
ACTION SP-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07

CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05

OES-06 FEAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 SS-15 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 EA-07 EUR-12 OIC-02 /128 W
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P R 231205Z SEP 76
FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4164
INFO USMISSION USUN
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
ERDA HQ WASHDC
ERDA HQ GERMANTOWN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KARACHI
AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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DEPT PASS IO/SCT FROM USDEL IAEA

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: IAEA, AORG, OCON
SUBJ: IAEA 20TH GENERAL CONFERENCE: PLENARY - OPENING SESSION - SEPTEMBER 21

REF: STATE 229595

SUMMARY: SESSION OPENED WITH SHORT SPEECH BY PRESIDENT OF PREVIOUS GENERAL CONFERENCE REVIEWING DEVELOPMENTS OVER PAST YEAR. THEN REPRESENTATIVE OF HOST COUNTRY WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT 20TH GENERAL CONFERENCE. WHEN HE ATTEMPTED NAME OTHER OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF GENERAL COMMITTEE, HE ENCOUNTERED OPPOSITION FROM AFRICAN STATES WHICH REQUESTED ADDITIONAL AFRICAN REP ON COMMITTEE. PRESIDENT
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THEREFORE POSTPONED APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL COMMITTEE UNTIL AN

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AGREEMENT IS REACHED WITH DISSENTERS. HE CONTINUED THE GENERAL DEBATE IN PLENARY. SPEAKERS INCLUDED THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, A REP OF UN-SYG AND THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER SHORT REVIEW OF HIGHLIGHTS OF PAST YEAR BY MR. JAN FELICKI (POLAND), PRESIDENT OF 19TH GC, THE ARGENTINE REP, MR CARLOS CASTRO MADERO, NOMINATED THE BRAZILIAN REP, MR HERVASIO DE CARVALHO, AS PRESIDENT OF THE 20TH GC. AFTER SECONDING BY FRG AND JAPAN, CARVALHO WAS ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION.

2. IN ACCEPTANCE SPEECH, CARVALHO NOTED THE DIFFERENCE IN ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE AGENCY OF RICH AND POOR NATIONS, POINTING OUT THAT THE FORMER WERE VERY INTERESTED IN ITS SAFEGUARDS FUNCTION, WHEREAS THE LATTER CONSIDERE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE THE MOST IMPORTANT FUNCTION. HE CONGRATULATED THE AGENCY ON ITS EFFICIENT USE OF SCARCE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES AND EXPRESSED HOPE THEY WOULD BE INCREASED. HE NOTED CURRENT PROBLEMS OF PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY RELATED TO WASTE DISPOSAL, AVAILABILITY OF URANIUM, AND DANGER OF TERRORIST DIVERSION. HE ARGUED, HOWEVER, THAT MILITARY STOCKPILES OF WEAPONS AND URANIUM ARE MORE LIKELY THAN CIVILIAN MATERIALS TO BE SUBJECT TO TERRORIST ATTACK, STATING THAT 20 YEARS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE CIVILIAN ACCUMULATION OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS TO REACH THE VOLUME OF THAT NOW AVAILABLE FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. HE THOUGHT THAT NUCLEAR ENERGY WAS REQUIRED UNQUESTIONABLY TO MEET WORLD ENERGY NEEDS AND HE BELIEVED AGENCY SAFEGUARDS, AFTER 20 YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE WERE UNQUESTIONABLY EFFECTIVE IN PREVENTING DIVERSION OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS.

3. TURNING TO AGENDA ITEM ONE, THE PRESIDENT NOTED THAT SOME DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FELT THAT AFRICA SHOULD HAVE ANOTHER SEAT ON THE GENERAL COMMITTEE. HE PROPOSED A VOTE, RATHER CONFUSINGLY, ON WHETHER THE GENERAL CONFERENCE DESIRED THE IMMEDIATE ELECTION OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE WHICH HE WOULD PROPOSE. NIGERIAN REP, SUPPORTED BY EGYPT AND PAKISTAN, QUESTIONED THIS PROCEDURE AND NOTED DESIRE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR BETTER REPRESENTATION. EGYPTIAN REP, MR. OMAR SIRRY, STATED HE WAS HEAD OF AFRICAN GROUP AND HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTED ON COMPOSITION OF GENERAL COMMITTEE. IN ACCORD WITH EGYPTIAN AND PAKISTAN SUGGESTION, PRESIDENT POSTPONED NAMING GENERAL COMMITTEE UNTIL NEXT DAY. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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4. DIRECTOR GENERAL EKLUND THEREUPON DELIVERED PRECIS OF HIS PUBLISHED STATEMENT, NOTING THAT HE HAD SENT AN EARLY DRAFT OUT TO MEMBERS REQUESTING COMMENTS IN ORDER TO GENERAL DISCUSSION OF IMPORTANT TOPICS. HE THEREAFTER HAD REVISED HIS DRAFT AND HAD AN AMENDED TEXT AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION. (COPIES BEING SENT IO/SCT). AMENDED TEXT SUBSTANTIALLY INCORPORATED SUGGESTIONS OFFERED REFTEL.

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5. GENERAL THRUST OF EKLUND STATEMENT WAS TO NOTE GROWTH OF AGENCY OVER TWENTY YEARS AND TO DESCRIBE PRESENT ACTIVITIES INCLUDING: SALZBURG CONFERENCE, INFORMATION EXCHANGE, URANIUM PROSPECTING, REGIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE CENTERS, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMS, SAFEGUARDS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. THE DG MADE SEVERAL NOTABLE POINTS, AMONG WHICH WERE:
(A) CONCERNING THE AGENCY'S LIMITED PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC DEBATE ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF NUCLEAR POWER, HE SAID ITS TIME TO DEVOTE MORE EFFORT TO FOLLOWING AND UNDERSTANDING ACTIVITIES OF THIS TYPE.
(B) THE AGENCY SHOULD HAVE COMPETENCE IN OTHER UNCONVENTIONAL ENERGY FIELDS IN ORDER TO BETTER ADVISE ITS MEMBERS ON ENERGY MATTERS AND TO AVOID CREATION OF ADDITIONAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN RELATED FIELDS.
(C) MEMBERS SHOULD ACCEPT SAFEGUARDS INSPECTORS WITHOUT REGARD TO THEIR NATIONALITY.
(D) NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS SHOULD BE ENDED.
(E) HE WILL IMPROVE REPORTING ON SAFEGUARDS INSPECTIONS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS NEXT YEAR.
(F) HE EXPRESSED WISH THAT IMPORTING STATES BE REQUIRED TO PLACE THEIR ENTIRE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE UNDER SAFEGUARDS.
(G) HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN THE CAPACITY OF THE AGENCY'S SAFEGUARDS PROCEDURES TO APPLY EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARDS "TO ANY NUCLEAR PLANT WITH WHICH THE AGENCY IS NOW DEALING OR IS LIKELY TO DEAL DURING THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS."
(H) CONCERNING WHETHER THE AGENCY'S PROMOTIONAL AND REGULATORY FUNCTIONS SHOULD BE SPLIT AS HAS BEEN DONE IN SOME STATES, HE STATED THIS WOULD BE A MISTAKE, POINTING OUT THAT THIS COULD DECREASE THE INTEREST OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND THE INTEREST OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN SAFEGUARDS.

6. MR.JUSSI MAKINEN (FINLAND) DELIVERED SHORT GREETING FROM UN
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SECRETARY GENERAL WHICH NOTED NEED FOR DEVELOPING PEACEFUL USES OF ATOM, WITH PROPER REGARD FOR NUCLEAR SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. HE ALSO STRESSED DUAL NATURE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY - OFFERING BOTH BENEFITS AND DANGERS. HE EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION AT AGENCY'S WORK TO IMPROVE ITS SAFEGUARDS.

7. VICE PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL, IN SPEECH WELCOMING IAEA MEMBERS, NOTED BRAZIL'S INCREASING EFFORTS IN NUCLEAR ENERGY FIELD, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS VITAL TO BRAZILIAN DEVELOPMENT. HE THOUGHT AGENCY ASSISTANCE IMPORTANT FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, LIKE BRAZIL, TURNING TO NUCLEAR POWER. TWO REQUIREMENTS HE IDENTIFIED FOR BRAZIL'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM WERE (A) SPEEDY IMPLEMENTATION AND (B) CONTROL BY LOCAL CAPITAL. HE THOUGHT THAT FRG/BRAZIL COOPERATION OPENS A NEW RANGE OF COMMON INTERESTS.
DEXTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976RIODE03588
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760359-0776
From: RIO DE JANEIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760928/aaaaaxku.tel
Line Count: 169
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SP
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 229595
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 NOV 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <10 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

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EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IAEA 20TH GENERAL CONFERENCE: PLENARY - OPENING SESSION - SEPTEMBER 21
TAGS: AORG, OCON, IAEA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006